



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 2021

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440646436?pwd=REEzdGVVVFhFNTFwMkZSMHlpU29LZz09>

To join by telephone: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 884 4064 6436, Passcode: 469663

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UNISON OPENING PRAYER

O God who fed the multitudes with but a few loaves and some fish, feed us now with the abundance of what you freely offer, that we might overflow with your goodness right where we live and in the world around us. All this we pray in the name of, and because of, Jesus our Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!

MEDITATION

The Benefits of Service

What most people don't know about me, is that I am a very high strung personality and constantly deal with anxiety. I have a hard time turning off the instinct to worry and thus I tend to plan, plan, plan and always be in process of organizing myself. In grad school this culminated in a stomach ulcer. Those of you who struggle with anxiety as well know how crippling anxiety can be especially in this time of pandemic.

When the pandemic first hit, I will admit I didn't quite know what was going on. I was living in a haze of newborn and post-surgery recovery. I didn't really know what was going on until I happened to fall on an email chain from the church about church being cancelled for the second week in a row. I became concerned and as I was speaking to Bill about it he suddenly said, "Honey, how do you not know about Covid? What are you living under a rock?" At that point, I read articles and more articles about what was going on and I felt that all too familiar anxiety rising and rising in me.

How was I going to keep my babies safe? Would there be food shortages? We needed to stock up on toilet paper! But also how do we continue connecting with our parishioners and how do I do worship? However, with the rising anxiety and the feeling of helplessness there came a point where I didn't know what to do and I felt as if everything just stopped in the world. I want to retreat into my house and try to forget about what was happening. This is the crippling effect of anxiety and fear.

But if we think this is a unique thing to the 21st century, then we would be wrong. This is a part of the human condition. We see it in our Psalm reading for today. This Psalm is a lament of the people suffering from loss, anxiety, and fear. In their anxiety about the shortness of human life and the troubles they suffered they did the only thing they knew how to do. And that wasn't climbing on their couches and hiding from the world. They gathered together collectively in prayer before God. They gathered before God because they knew God's decisive impact on life throughout history and creation and could thus trust God enough to relinquish their lives to his hands, making a plea to God to help them deal with the brevity and troubles that often accompany human life.

We are called to do the same thing in the midst of the life stopped fear and anxiety of the brevity of life. When we are drawn to the couch or bed, let's in those moments turn to God and pray for wisdom and courage to deal with the challenges of this age and time. In the gospels, Jesus gives us an idea of how to deal with the troubles in our own lives. The anxieties that surely the people he preached to dealt with each and every day. Anxieties that were also brought by fears of plagues, droughts, and illness.

Christ said in the gospel of Mark to a follower of his, "You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions." They too searched for something more. Eternal life, so, they could pull themselves out of the crippling fear of the realities of life around them. Jesus told him to give up the fear and to follow him reaching out and touching the lives of others.

This is what we are called to do. When we are inclined to turn back towards that couch wanting to hide in fear of all that threatens us in this world, we are called to trust in God enough to discard that fear and to throw ourselves into help others and loving our neighbors. This is what we intend to do today with our service project. Let's join together forgetting our anxieties for a bit as we work to help others who also struggle with overwhelming troubles. And in so doing we may just be able to do as Helen Keller suggests when she wrote, "Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another's pain, life is not in vain".

¹ Mark 10: 19-21, NRSV.

² Helen Keller, 20th century.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Gathering of the gifts with Offertory

Offertory Anthem

The Lord's Prayer

Piano Solos and Hymns

Presentation of the gifts with praise

****Doxology: #515 PH[∞] Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

TIME OF PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

DISCIPLESHIP

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

TRANSITION TO SERVICE PROJECT

Confirming Deacon for October — *Jon Stock*
Offerings — *Claudia Nielsen and Connie Wing*
Scriptures — *Grace Raymond*

Welcome to worship. In the name of God — Father, Son and Spirit — we enter together into worship. Amen. We invite our visitors to sign our guest book.

Church office hours — The office will be open Monday— Friday from 9-1. Rev. Amanda is in Sunday—Thursday from 9 to 2. For a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Amanda (860-449-4439).

Prayer List - Please keep our members and friends in your prayers; Kathy, Sara Trup, all who mourn or need special prayers of intention, our congregation and friends of our community. You may fill out a Prayer Request card or call or email the church office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you for your prayers.

The Next Food Kitchen at Bridgeport Rescue Mission is Tuesday, October 19. Please see the sign up sheet. Non-perishables for Bridgeport Rescue Mission may also be dropped off any time at the OA building and are brought to the pantry when we serve dinner later in the month.

Altar Flowers — Altar Flowers for Sunday worship are a beautiful addition to our services. You may order or provide the flowers yourself, or have the office order them.

Merton House— Each month we collect travel sized toiletries for Merton House Shelter that works to help those seeking aid get what they need. Please consider donating your travel sized toiletries to this cause. The basket is located in the church hall across from the doors.

Fall Bible Study -- Bible study meets every Wednesdays starting at 3:30 PM for the study of the Genesis 11:30-25:18. We are studying the history of the family of Abraham. This is offered in person in the Bishop Room and over zoom.

Guided Meditation -- Looking for a way to relax and connect with God? Then join us over zoom on Thursday nights at 7 PM for a guided meditation. This promises to offer respite from the stresses of the week and a moment of relaxation.

Cookie Walk - is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. We will need a lot of cookies so are hoping to get an early start! To be a baker, please see the sign up sheet in the Church Hall

Thanksgiving Baskets for Covenant to Care - At this time of year when we give thanks for all we have, we also reach out to those who have not. Please consider signing up to provide food, a gift card or both for a Thanksgiving dinner for a family from Covenant to Care. The list of families is in the Church Hall. Baskets are due by Sunday, November 21st.

Calendar

Sunday, October 10 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Outreach Sunday worship in the hall with service project

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440646436?pwd=REEzdGVlVWhFNTFwMkZSMHlpU29LZz09>

Wednesday, October 13

3:30 p.m. Bible Study Bishop Room and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86929899126>

Thursday, October 14

7:00 p.m. Guided Meditation via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89414286446>

Sunday, October 17 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. In person Worship in the Sanctuary and zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440646436?pwd=REEzdGVlVWhFNTFwMkZSMHlpU29LZz09>

10:15 a.m. Children's Worship

The Reverend Amanda Ostrove

Council Chair, Phillip Doremus

Erica Caldwell, Administrative Assistant

Church Office 261-2527

Website: www.eastonchurch.org

Deacon Chair, Nathalie Taranto

Sara Scoran, Sexton

Email: cchurcheaston@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies call the church office or after hours call Rev. Amanda (860-449-4439)